



TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
EMERGENCY PLANNING UNIT

Committee Report

Meeting : CIVIL CONTINGENCIES COMMITTEE : 25TH OCTOBER 2010

Subject : NATIONAL TRAINING AWARDS 2010

Report of the Chief Emergency Planning Officer

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members that the EPU and TWFRS have been awarded a Regional Training Award. The award nomination was submitted in conjunction with a number of partners including Northumbria Police and the North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust in recognition of the Guardian exercise series.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The National Training Awards is a scheme which recognises the impact that excellent training, learning and development has on achieving outstanding organisational and individual success and provides a benchmark for standards of excellence in training in the UK.
- 2.2 The National Training Awards are run on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills by an organisation called UK Skills and were established in 1987. The 2010 awards were sponsored by City and Guilds.
- 2.3 The National Training Awards (NTA's) are unique because they encompass all sectors, sizes of organisation, training provider and individuals, recognising all types of training from formal qualification programmes to informal learning and coaching.
- 2.4 The Awards are an annual event with entries from organisations and partnerships across the UK in a variety of categories. There are seven Award categories in the National Training Awards as outlined below:
- Providing Education and Training
 - Partnership and Collaboration
 - Now Is The Time
 - Individual Award
 - Small Employer (up to 49 employees)
 - Medium Employer (up to 249 employees)

- Large Employer (over 250 employees)

3 APPLICATION PROCESS

3.1 Members will previously be aware of verbal reports to Committee regarding the Guardian series of exercises in relation to multi-agency planning for CBRN incidents. The team who manage and deliver the Guardian series for the North East of England comprises:

- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- Northumbria Police
- North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- Tyne and Wear Emergency Planning Unit

3.2 The Guardian team submitted an entry in the Partnership and Collaboration category which aims to acknowledge and celebrate the positive impact and success created through the use of a collaborative approach to learning. This category is aimed at two or more organisations combining resources to work together on the development and delivery of the training.

3.3 The application guidance required entries to include significant and detailed contribution from all partners throughout the process. The application needed to outline clear demonstrable benefits to each partner, far beyond the financial incentive associated with a customer/client relationship. The application criteria also required the relationship to be a longer term arrangement and not just an organisation contracting a provider for a particular project.

3.4 The application was submitted by the group and outlined the contributions of each partner, the benefits to each and how the partnership itself is managed and evaluated. The application process was co-ordinated by Northumbria Police.

4 JUDGING STAGES

4.1 Stage 1 – Assessment

The first analysis of written applications is carried out in order to check that entries meet the national criteria.

Stage 2 – Regional judging and on-site visits

Regional panels are held across the UK. Entries are debated and winners are awarded by a team of expert Judges. All potential winners will receive an on-site visit by the Judges to verify and further discuss the evidence described in the entry.

Stage 3 – UK judging - An overall Winner of the Year is chosen in each category.

4.2 The Judges are volunteers who have considerable experience and expertise in the world of learning and have excellent knowledge of the National Training Awards. The Judges come from a variety of sectors and backgrounds, which this year included:

- Durham University
- North East Chamber of Commerce
- Barclaycard Business
- Npower Retail
- TDR Training Ltd
- Project Business Ltd
- Northern Spirit HR
- Northumbria University
- Business Link North East

4.3 There are three levels of award:

- **Regional Training Award** – awarded to applicants who have shown an outstanding level of impact and benefits as a result of the training activity.
- **UK National Training Award** – presented to Regional Award Winners (maximum of one per Category) who showed real exceptionalism and considered by the judges to be true exemplars of excellence.
- **UK judging** - An overall Winner of the Year is chosen in each category

5 NATIONAL TRAINING AWARDS – THE REGIONAL CEREMONY

5.1 On Tuesday 21st September 2010, the annual NTA Regional Ceremony was held at the Discovery Museum, Newcastle.

5.2 The ceremony was attended by members from the Guardian Planning Team and their commitment and hard work was rewarded when the Exercise Guardian submission was awarded a Regional Award. The Judges identified the uniqueness of the submission and were particularly impressed by the excellent multi-agency working evident throughout the planning, preparation, delivery and review of the Guardian Series.

5.3 The recognition from a national panel of highly respected judges of the Guardian Series of exercises highlights the improvements made in responder capabilities from both a single and multi-agency standpoint. It also underlines the position the area maintains nationally in CBRN preparedness and response.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Members are asked to:

- a) Note the contents of this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Working papers relating to the above are held in the offices of TWEPU.